



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

January 23, 2006



Above: Two sandstone columns, similar to the columns in the Crypt of the Capitol, now mark the entrance to the CVC Exhibition Hall. Inset: A worker welds steel support beams that will support sandstone slabs above the entrance threshold.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 1/23/06 through 1/27/06

CVC and East Front Plaza:

- Workers continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, erect masonry block work and metal stud walls, place concrete, install finish stone, and apply plaster to interior spaces.
- Stone masons will continue installing floor stone in corridors south of the Great Hall and near the Congressional Auditorium and they will begin moving westward toward the CVC Exhibition Hall.
- Inside the Great Hall, stone masons will continue installing stone on the east columns and between the barrel-vaulted ceiling alcoves. Masons have also set two sandstone columns between the Great Hall and the Exhibition Hall (see photos above).
- Workers will continue installing the structural support systems for the escalators adjacent to the Great Hall.
- Crews continue to install masonry block units on the basement and Crypt levels within the East Front. Blockwork will continue along both sides of the monumental stair connecting the CVC to the Capitol.
- Workers are installing mechanical systems in the East Front (ductwork and electrical conduit) and are continuing to install mechanical elements for two 25-passenger elevators on the north side of the East Front.
- On the Service Level, crews continue to make the electrical, duct and piping connections to the air handling units, fans and other mechanical equipment.
- Inside the House and Senate Expansion Space, crews continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, and erect metal stud walls and drywall. The block work and metal stud walls are now complete on the upper and middle levels of the House Expansion space and in the middle level of the Senate space.



Masons execute some final cuts on Tennessee Marble base stone to be installed in the upper level lobby outside the Orientation Theaters.

- Wall “close-in” inspections are now complete in most of these areas. Installation of mechanical and electrical systems has begun on the Service level of the House space and crews are nearing completion of wall framing for the Senate Recording Studio.
- A stone crew will continue installing granite blocks on the exterior walls of the Congressional Auditorium and on the south retaining wall leading to the CVC entrance. Meanwhile crews continue excavation along the north wall to clear the way for the concrete foundation work for a stepped walkway as well as the pits for 18 trees.
- Masons are expected to resume installation of stone for the historic Frederick Law Olmsted-designed fountains.
- Foundation work continues as part of the effort to construct a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to House expansion space.
- Crews continue to lay granite pavers in the sidewalk leading to the Senate Steps as restoration activities continue in preparation of the State of the Union address on January 31.

East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- The utility connections to steam and chilled water lines at First and Second Street continue. Concrete placements have been completed and final installation of pre-cast sections at First and Second Streets will occur once all piping elements have been delivered inside the tunnel. Installation of ventilation ductwork and piping insulation are ongoing throughout the length of the tunnel. Street restoration activities are still expected to begin in late February.

Next Week – 1/30/06 – 2/3/06

CVC, East Front Plaza Work, East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- Crews will continue to install ductwork and piping for all heating, cooling, supply, waste water, fire protection, and electrical systems; build mechanical spaces, install cable trays, place concrete, erect blockwork and metal stud walls, and install finish stone in areas on the upper and middle levels of the facility.
- Installation and welding of pipe will continue inside the new utility tunnel along East Capitol Street between First and Second Streets. Related utility tie-in work and backfilling activities will continue along the length of the tunnel.
- Crews will continue installing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, metal stud walls, drywall and ductwork in the House and Senate Expansion Space.
- Foundation work will continue below the House Carriageway as part of the construction of a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to the Capitol Visitor Center.
- Masons will continue installing granite pavers to restore the Senate Plaza and the adjacent sidewalk in preparation for the State of the Union address on January 31, 2006.

Additional photos on next two pages.

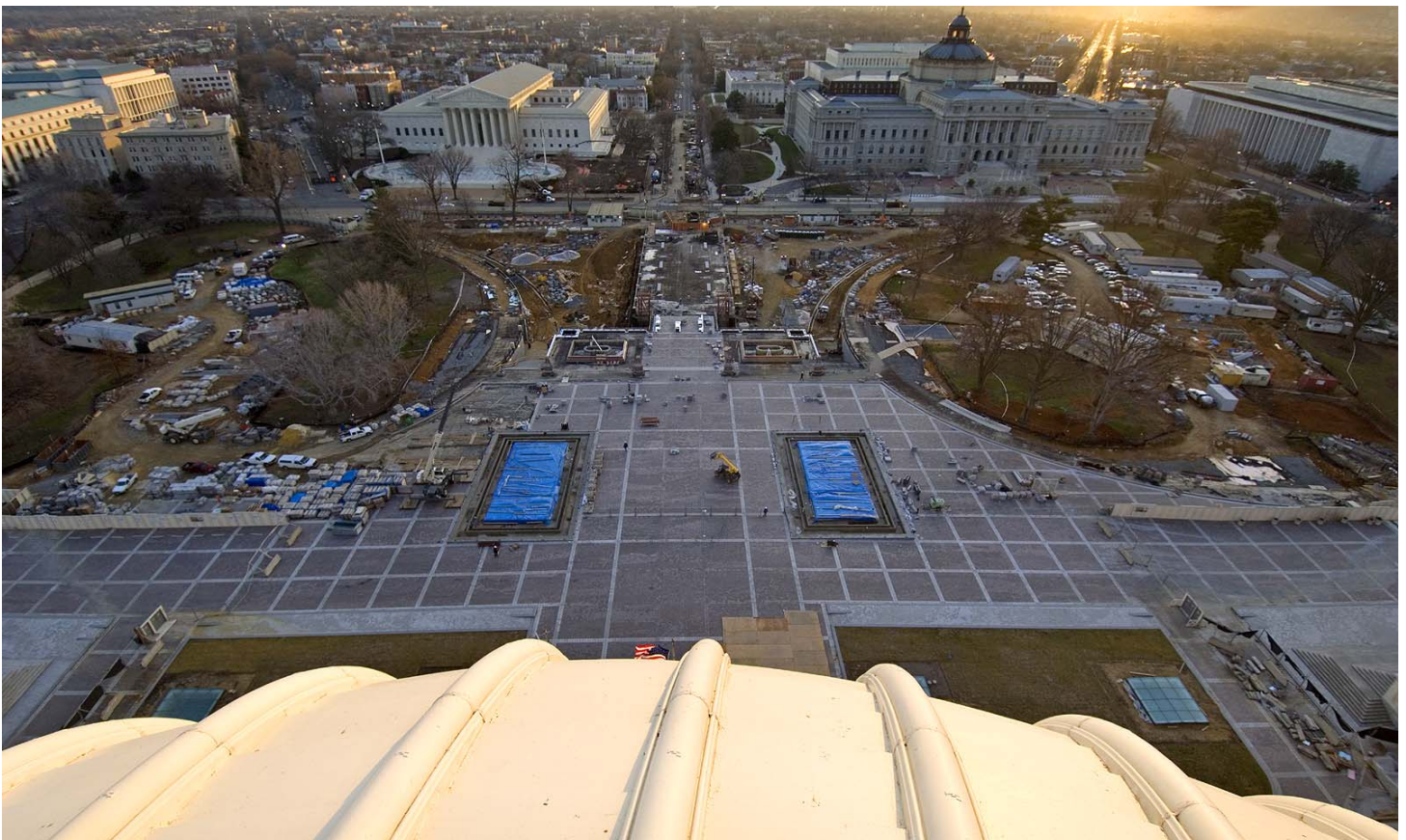
Construction continues in all areas of the Capitol Visitor Center project site with stone work and utility installation being the most dominant activities both inside and outside the facility.



Left: Masons install a granite block to the south exterior wall of the Congressional Auditorium. In March, landscapers will begin planting two rows of Tulip Poplars, a total of 36 trees, along both sides of the Auditorium. In all, 85 new trees will replace the 68 trees that were removed from the East Capitol Grounds to clear the project footprint for construction.

Below: Stone masons secure a 1,500-lb sandstone block before it is raised nearly 30 feet for installation at the ceiling level of the Congressional Auditorium.

Bottom: An early morning view of the East Front Plaza shows most of the 165,000 granite pavers that have been set thus far on the CVC roof deck. The blue rectangles in the center mark the location of large skylights above the CVC's Great Hall. The skylights will replace the blue tarps this spring.





Clockwise from above: A welder connects water lines inside the CVC utility tunnel; Workers inside the Great Hall prepare to raise a sandstone block for one of the ceiling soffits between ceiling vaults; a worker installs a portion of the ceiling support structure in a corridor near the Great Hall; masons prepare a sand and cement bed for granite pavers for the sidewalk leading to the Senate Carriageway and North Door. Most of the stonework in this area will be complete to a level sufficient to support pedestrian and vehicular traffic for the State of the Union address on January 31, 2006.